

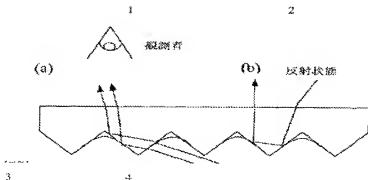
REMARKS

Claims 1 to 110 are pending. Claims 8-15, 23-30, 38-45, 53-65, 73-85, and 93-105 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 31-33, 35, 37, and 106-110 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sumitomo (JP2001-350008A). The Examiner asserts in part that Sumitomo anticipates the above claims and refers to the Figure on page 5 of Sumitomo.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection because Sumitomo does not disclose or suggest all of the claimed elements in independent claims 31, 106, and 109. For example, Sumitomo does not disclose that the prisms are arranged such that “in a reflective mode, light incident onto the first surface at a reflected incident angle is refracted through the first surface, reflected at the first facet of a first prismatic structure, reflected at the second facet of a second prismatic structure, and refracted through the first surface.” As shown in Fig 3 of Sumitomo shown below, the light in reflective mode refracts through a first surface (portion b), reflects from the first facet of a first prism, reflects from the second facet of the first prism, and refracted through the first surface.



In contrast, the present invention claims that the prisms are arranged such that in a reflective mode, light incident onto the first surface at a reflected incident angle is refracted through the first surface, reflected at the first facet of a first prismatic structure, reflected at the second facet of a second prismatic structure, and refracted through the first surface. An

exemplary embodiment of a prismatic structure of the present invention illustrating its operation in a reflective mode is depicted in FIG. 1, shown below.

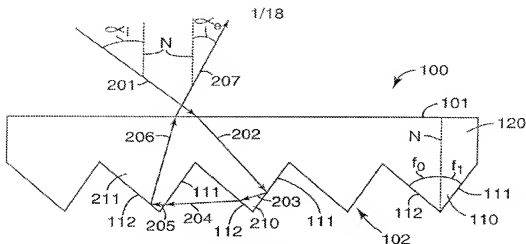


Fig. 1

As shown above in the figures, Sumitomo does not disclose that the prisms are arranged such that “in a reflective mode, light incident onto the first surface at a reflected incident angle is refracted through the first surface, reflected at the first facet of a first prismatic structure, reflected at the second facet of a second prismatic structure, and refracted through the first surface.” For at least this reason, Sumitomo does not anticipate the invention as claimed in independent claims 31, 106, and 109 or, any invention claimed in any claim dependent from claims 31, 106, and 109. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 16-22, 34, 36, 46-52, 66-72, and 86-92 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumitomo in view of Koike et al. (US 6,172,809). The Examiner submits in part that Sumitomo discloses certain elements of the above claims, referring to the Figure on page 5 of Sumitomo, but does not disclose what angle the facets make; and that Koike et al. disclose the first facet making an angle with respect to the second facet that is no more than about 70 degrees (column 14, lines 39-50).


Applicants have discussed Sumitomo above, asserting that Sumitomo at least does not disclose Applicants' claimed invention wherein the prisms are arranged such that in a reflective mode, light incident onto the first surface at a reflected incident angle is refracted through the first surface, reflected at the first facet of a first prismatic structure, reflected at the second facet of a second prismatic structure, and refracted through the first surface.

Koike et al. disclose a transmissive system, and does not contemplate a transfective system. Even assuming that one skilled in the art at the time of the invention were to look to Koike et al., Koike et al. do not disclose or suggest the missing element of Sumitomo described above. Thus, the combination of the teachings of Koike et al. with those of Sumitomo et al. as suggested by the Examiner above would not result in the claimed invention. Such a combination would at least be missing the element wherein the prisms are arranged such that in a reflective mode, light incident onto the first surface at a reflected incident angle is refracted through the first surface, reflected at the first facet of a first prismatic structure, reflected at the second facet of a second prismatic structure, and refracted through the first surface.

For at least these reasons, the above combination of Sumitomo and Koike et al. does not result in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1-7,16-22,34, 36, 46-52, 66-72, and 86-92 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the above claims are in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 10, 2007
Date

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